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**State of Wisconsin**

**Department of Health Services**

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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Date: August 19, 2015

To: Physicians, Pharmacists, Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, Local Health Departments, Tribal Health Centers

From: Jeffrey P. Davis, MD, Chief Medical Officer  
and State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey P. Davis MD'.

Re: Vaccinate pregnant women with Tdap and influenza vaccines

Vaccination rates among pregnant women in Wisconsin have improved, but remain suboptimal. Help us protect the health of Wisconsin mothers and infants by making strong recommendations for Tdap and influenza vaccination during every pregnancy.

**Recommendations for Tdap and influenza vaccination during pregnancy**

- Since February 2013, pregnant women have been recommended to receive tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine during every pregnancy, ideally between 27 and 36 weeks of gestation. This strategy provides passive protection to newborn infants, who are at high risk for developing severe complications of pertussis, including hospitalization and death.
- Additionally, women who are or will be pregnant during influenza season are recommended to receive inactivated influenza vaccine, regardless of trimester. Influenza vaccination during pregnancy has been shown to protect both mother and infant from influenza-related illness and hospitalization.

**Vaccination rates among insured pregnant women in Wisconsin**

- The Wisconsin Division of Public Health recently evaluated vaccination rates among insured pregnant women in Wisconsin. Please see link to the full report: [MMWR 2015;64:746-750](#).
- Tdap vaccination rates increased rapidly among insured pregnant women in Wisconsin after the February 2013 recommendation, but plateaued in November 2013 near 50%. Among women who received Tdap during pregnancy, most received Tdap during the recommended time interval during pregnancy.
- Influenza vaccination rates among insured pregnant women plateaued near 50% among women who delivered during the 2013–2014 influenza season. Among women who delivered during March 2014, only 34% received both Tdap and influenza vaccines during pregnancy.

**Providers should take the following steps to ensure eligible pregnant patients are vaccinated:**

1. Screen pregnant patients for vaccination status.
2. Strongly recommend the needed vaccines.
3. Utilize the resources found on the next page to educate patients and providers about vaccination during pregnancy.
4. Administer the needed vaccines, or refer the pregnant patient to a provider who is able to vaccinate.
5. Document the vaccination in the patient's medical record and submit this information to the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR).

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Stephanie Borchardt at 608-266-9923 or [Stephanie.Borchardt@wi.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Borchardt@wi.gov).

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## **Resources**

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists immunization toolkit

<http://www.acog.org/-/media/Departments/Immunization/ImmunizationToolkit.pdf>

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Tdap immunization toolkit

<http://www.acog.org/-/media/Departments/Immunization/2013TdapMailingSmall.pdf>

Tdap during pregnancy information for pregnant women and health care professionals

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/pregnant/index.html>

Educational materials for pregnant women regarding vaccination during pregnancy

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/materials/pregnant.html>

Immunization and pregnancy vaccines flyer

[http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/downloads/f\\_preg.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/downloads/f_preg.pdf)

Immunization and pregnancy vaccines chart

[http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/downloads/f\\_preg\\_chart.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/downloads/f_preg_chart.pdf)

Pertussis and influenza vaccination among insured pregnant women — Wisconsin, 2013–2014

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6427a4.htm>

## **Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations**

CDC. Updated recommendations for use of tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) in pregnant women—Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2012. MMWR 2013;62:131-5.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6207a4.htm>

CDC. Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)—United States, 2015–16 Influenza Season. MMWR 2015; 64:818-825.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/flu.html>